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Reassuring Anzus

It is encouraging, rather than otherwise, that no startling announcements are coming out of the meeting of Anzus Pact Foreign Ministers in Washington. This is a sign that the Australian-New Zealand-American defense alliance is in good repair. The three-nation agreement to oppose the seating of Red China in the United Nations at this time only conforms, of course, to the realities until China demonstrates peaceful intentions. However, it is well to have solidarity publicly declared on this point. For the rest, the Anzus meeting is a more or less *pro forma* affair while the visiting Foreign Ministers are en route to the United Nations, though it gives an opportunity for the renewal of assurances and a review of military strategy.

This time, though Great Britain is not represented by so much as an observer, there is little of the caterwauling from London that accompanied the exclusion of Britain last year. That is testimony to a better understanding on the part of the British of the purpose of the noncontinental alliance as well as to more faith in their allies. Mr. Churchill's government behaved petulantly on this relatively minor issue last year, and a part of the British press tried to blame the United States with the absurd charge that this country was trying to detach Australia and New Zealand from their loyalty to Britain.

We hope that the critics will note the statement by Australian Foreign Minister Casey that if Britain were admitted to Anzus there would be no way to shut the door. Actually, there was complete agreement between Australia, New Zealand and the United States in the first place that the pact should be a Pacific rather than an Asiatic affair, limited to the three original members—just as NATO is limited to North Atlantic powers. Revival of the Australian-New Zealand-Malayan liaison group, incidentally, may help keep British feelings assuaged by serving as a channel for information.

The time may come, as the British are still urging, when defense arrangements in the Far East should be broadened. The logical place to start, however, is not by commitments on the Asian mainland, but by integrating the separate American defense pacts with the Philippines and Japan. For Japan, particularly, is a big power, and any lasting security arrangement in the Far East must include her. It may be necessary to take separate account of European interests on the mainland. There is no real community of interest, however, between the island defense and the mainland, and an attempt to stretch Anzus would serve only to dilute its meaning.